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7 April '52 money received from H1004

Management & Budget

Thru: ED:MB - C [] , Chief
PUB:OD - C [] , General Manager - Off of Director
PUB:PS - C [] Chief
(Public Affairs Policy Staff)
Project CF-75 (PUB Contingency Fund) 6 March 1952

This project will give assistance in the amount of IM 90,000 (IM15,000 per month for a period of six months, March 1 to August 31, 1952) to a group of young Berlin journalists to enable this group to intensify its efforts in putting out fake editions of Soviet Zone publications for circulation in the Soviet Zone.

This group of young journalists operates under the name, "Aktions Gruppe B." All members are competent newspapermen who have had experience in areas of Germany now under Soviet domination and who have successfully issued fake numbers of Soviet Zone publications since early 1950. These fake numbers are printed in the same format as the Soviet Zone original, but with editorial content reflecting Western policy viewpoints.

"Action Group B" now issues fake editions of "Die Volkspolizei" (The People's Police), "Tribüne" (Tribune — labor publication), "Der Freie Bauer" (The Free Farmer), and "Junge Welt" (Young World — youth organ). "Die Volkspolizei" is brought out in 10,000 copies, 12 pages with a cardboard cover. The other three publications are issued in four-page editions of 20,000. The group has followed a policy of publishing a combination of two of the above editions each month.

Infiltration and distribution of "Aktion Gruppe" publications in the Soviet Zone is done through a "carrier" system. The group maintains a number of contacts in the form of individuals and organizations willing to assume the responsibility of taking the materials into the Soviet Zone and insuring that they are effectively distributed. Through its carrier system, the group is in a position to send materials to specifically-designated target groups and areas almost anywhere within East Germany.

The "Aktions Gruppe" has been supported in its activities to the extent of DM 12,000 a month by the Federal Republic Ministry for All-German Affairs. The Ministry thinks highly of the group's effectiveness and is committed to continuing aid on the present basis at least until the end of the next German fiscal year, March 31, 1953.

The "Aktions Gruppe" has proposed to expand its operations. Instead of having to choose two from among the four publications each month, the group proposes to do all four on a regular and uninterrupted basis with slightly increased circulation. The carrier system can absorb this additional distribution load; in fact, it was the carriers themselves who, based on proof of the impact and effectiveness of the publications, suggested that they could and would assume the additional distribution burden.

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The Ministry for All-German Affairs is thoroughly in favor of the group's proposal for stepped-up activities. Not being in a position to make an additional contribution, however, it has requested HICOG to give the group's proposal favorable consideration.

It will be recalled that this office previously had very favorable and productive relations with this organization in the publication of three fake editions, totalling 180,000 copies, of the Communist youth newspaper, "Junge Welt", on the occasion of the August 1951 World Youth Festival in Berlin. (PUB Contingency Fund Project CF-29).

This project has been approved by the Director of the Office of Public Affairs and coordinated with the Office of Intelligence. Implementation will be effected by the Office of Intelligence.

(Note: Copied from memo in ~~SECRET~~ file - not the original. ~~SECRET~~ handled contact with HICOG re LCCASSOCK)

PUB:PS: ~~SECRET~~
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